

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace the claims of record with the following full set of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A record carrier comprising a plurality of areas ~~at least one area~~ for storing disc management information and a designation area, ~~said record carrier further comprising an area, associated with a first one of said at least one area, said designation area including a predefined number of clusters, said predefined number being associated with a number of said plurality of areas, wherein at least one of said clusters is associated with a corresponding one of the plurality of areas for storing disc management information, wherein comprising signals in the designation area indicate which corresponding one of~~ indicating which of selected ones of said plurality of areas ~~at least one area~~ for storing disc management information is in use, ~~said signals being related to a corresponding one of said at least one area for storing disc management information.~~
2. (Currently amended) The record carrier according to claim 1, wherein the designation area comprising signals indicating which of said at least one area for storing disc management information is in use is located inside ~~said first one of said plurality of areas~~ at least one area for storing disc management information.
3. (Currently amended) The record carrier according to claim 1, wherein the designation area comprising signals indicating which of said at least one area for storing disc management information is in use is located adjacent to ~~said first one of said plurality of areas~~ at least one area for storing disc management information.

4. (Currently amended) The record carrier according to claim 1 wherein the signals ~~indicating which of said at least one area for storing disc management information is in use are clusters on said record carrier, said clusters comprising~~ comprise marks for indicating a first status of said a corresponding one of the plurality of areas ~~at least one area for storing disc management information and comprising no marks for indicating a second status of said a corresponding one of the plurality of areas~~ at least one area for storing disc management information.

5. (Currently amended) The record carrier according to claim 4, wherein the first status indicates that a corresponding area of said plurality of areas ~~at least one area~~ for storing disc management information is in use, and the second status indicates that the corresponding area of said plurality of areas ~~at least one area~~ for storing disc management information is not in use.

6. (Currently amended) A method for recording information on a record carrier, said record carrier comprising plurality of areas ~~at least one area~~ for storing disc management information and ~~an~~ a designation area including a predefined number of clusters, said predefined number of clusters being associated with a number of said plurality of areas, at least one of said clusters being associated with a corresponding one of the plurality of areas for storing disc management information wherein ~~comprising~~ signals in the clusters indicate which of ~~indicating which of selected ones of~~ said plurality of areas ~~at least one area~~ for storing disc management information is in use, ~~said signals being related to a corresponding one of said at least one area for storing disc management information,~~ the method comprising the steps of:

accessing the designation area comprising signals indicating which of ~~each of said~~ plurality of areas ~~at least one area~~ for storing disc management

information is in use,

checking each of said signals in said designation area;

determining from said signals the last area for storing disc management information which is in use, and

retrieving the disc management information contained within said determined last area for storing disc management information.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the step of accessing the designation area comprising signals indicating which of said plurality of areas ~~at least one area~~ for storing disc management information is in use consists of referencing a predefined location on the record carrier.

8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the step of retrieving the disc management information comprises retrieving pointer information from a predefined location in the determined last area for storing disc management information in use, and subsequently retrieving the disc management information by using said pointer information.

9. (cancel)

10. (Currently amended) The record carrier according to claim 1, wherein said signals in said clusters of said designation area ~~comprising signals indicating which of said at least one area for storing disc management information is in use~~ explicitly identify which of ~~identifies said first one of said plurality of areas at least one area is in use.~~

11. (Currently amended) The record carrier according to claim 1, wherein said signals in said cluster of said designation area ~~comprising signals indicating which of said at least one area for storing disc management information is in use~~

implicitly identify which ~~identifies said first one of said~~ plurality of areas ~~at least one area is in use.~~

12. (Currently amended) The record carrier according to claim 1, wherein said ~~a~~ first one of said plurality of areas ~~at least one area~~ is contained at a known region of said record carrier.

13. (Currently amended) The record carrier according to claim 1, wherein said designation area ~~comprising signals indicating which of said at least one area for storing disc management information is in use~~ is contained at a known region of said record carrier.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said signals in said clusters of said designation area ~~comprising signals indicating which of said at least one area for storing disc management information is in use~~ explicitly identify which of ~~identifies said first one of said~~ plurality of areas ~~at least one area is in use.~~

15. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said signals in said clusters fo said other area ~~comprising signals indicating which of said at least one area for storing disc management information is in use~~ implicitly identify which of ~~identifies said first one of said~~ plurality of areas ~~at least one area is in use.~~

16. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein a said first one of said plurality of areas ~~at least one area~~ is contained at a known region of said record carrier.

17. (Currently amended) A record carrier comprising at least one layer, each of said at least one layer comprising:

a plurality of areas ~~at least one area~~ of a known dimension for storing disc management information and a designation area, said designation area including a predefined number of clusters, said predefined number of clusters being associated with a number of said plurality of areas, at least one cluster being associated with a corresponding one of the plurality of areas for storing disc management information, wherein signals in the designation area indicate which of said plurality of areas is in use, wherein a first one of said at least one area has associated therewith an area comprising signals corresponding to selected ones of each of said at least one area for storing disc management information, said signals indicating which of said at least one area for storing disc management information is in use.

18. (Currently amended) The record carrier according to claim 17, wherein said signals in said clusters in said designation area comprising signals indicating which of said at least one area for storing disc management information is in use explicitly identify which of ~~identifies said first one of said~~ plurality of areas ~~at least one area is in use.~~

19. (Currently amended) The record carrier according to claim 17, wherein said signals in said clusters in said other area comprising signals indicating which of said at least one area for storing disc management information is in use implicitly identify which of ~~identifies said first one of said~~ plurality of areas ~~at least one area is in use.~~

20. (New) The record carrier of claim 1, wherein the predefined number of clusters equals the number of said plurality of areas.

21. (New) The record carrier of claim 1, wherein the predefined number of clusters equals one less than the number of said plurality of areas.